

OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

was under the impression that Freneau had declined. "I am sincerely sorry. * * * I should have given him the perusal of all my letters of foreign intelligence and all foreign newspapers, the publication of all proclamations and other publications within my department, and the printing of the laws, which, added to his salary, would have, been a considerable aid."

Freneau* did, however, finally accept, though not without solicitation, and coming to Philadelphia, then the seat of the government, established his paper, the National Gazette. He devoted himself to lashing unmercifully Hamilton's policy of finance and the monarchial and aristocratic tendencies of the Federalist school. It is truly remarkable that Hamilton should have refrained from replying. In July, 1791, however, he could no longer restrain himself. Over an anonymous signature, he assailed Freneau in the Federalist Register. "The Government of the United States.

While the assault was in formal terms directed at the Government, it was but too evident that its real aim was to attack Jefferson. The first of the attacks was a short article in which he pretended innocence, whether the editor of the National Gazette received a salary for translation or for publication, "the design of which was to vilify those to whom the Government of the United States had committed the administration of our public affairs, to oppose the measures of government and by the influence of which to disturb the public peace," The second article was signed S. J. and charged explicitly that Freneau's clerkship was a subterfuge, that not only had Jefferson employed him as a public officer to the end above hinted at, but that he had contributed to the paper articles of a violent character. The assaults upon Freneau were immediately answered by his partisan, though, strange to say, in his own defence. When the paper they were practically ignored. I feel contented with taking an affidavit before the Mayor of Philadelphia that the effect that not a line was ever directly or indirectly written,

*Sec Freneau, page 101.